

REMARKS

The Examiner's office action of January 22, 2003, has been carefully reviewed. Each of the Examiner's grounds for rejection and objection is addressed hereinafter.

The Examiner first objected to claim 1 as lacking a comma after "system" in line 11. This oversight has been corrected in the claim amendments made hereinabove. Thus, this objection is deemed overcome.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-25 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ohsawa U.S. Patent 5,463,676 in view of LaBarbera U.S. Patent 5,757,897. Nonetheless, the Examiner did indicate that claims 1 and 17 would be allowable if amended to include the subject matter of claims 11 and 26 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended these claims as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 13, 15 and 16 now depend from claim 1 and are likewise believed to be in a condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 28, 30 and 31 depend from claim 17 and are also believed to be allowable. Accordingly, all claims are now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

As noted in Amendment A, Applicants contend that none of the prior art of record, taken alone or in any possible combination, discloses:


- (1) enabling both a CPU controlled telephone exchange switch and a voice processing system to generate messages that can be transferred across a data link;
- (2) selectively controlling the telephone exchange switch by way of the exchanged messages;

(3) providing an interactive telephone set with a display and a control switch, wherein messages can be displayed on the set in response to the exchange of messages between the voice mail system and the exchange switch.

All of the grounds for objection and rejection are deemed overcome on the basis of the claim amendments and arguments made here above. The application should now be in condition for allowance. Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1667.

Respectfully submitted,

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